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65. Management of Devaswom properties.

Mr. D. Govinda Pillai (Member, Kottarakara Taluk) requested that special arrangements might be made for the management of Devaswom properties. They belonged to the Hindus in general and Government were only trustees. He referred to the abuse and waste under existing management and said that, under careful supervision, there would result considerable saving which could be utilised in sending young men for education abroad, or if that was considered not possible, in resuscitating dilapidated temples.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the member are noted.

IX. *Miscellaneous.*

66. Christians and the public service.

Mr. T. C. Cheriyan (Member, Travancore and Cochin Christian Association, Kottayam) spoke especially on the exclusion of Native Christians from the higher grades of the Revenue service. Referring to the dedication of the whole State to Sri Padmanabha Swami, on which was evidently based the exclusion of Christians, he said that there was nothing in that legendary act of dedication to justify the exclusion of Christians from 39 appointments in the higher grade; that, even if the version of legendary lore was passed over, such dedication was extremely unlikely and that there was no reliable or authentic evidence of the same; that the dedication, if there was one, was simply an out-come of His Highness' piety and desire to secure peace and immunity from attacks of enemies; that it was not to be presumed that it contemplated the exclusion of Christians from the public service; that the enfranchisement of Sirkar pattom lands, the former employment of Christians in branches now closed to them, the employment of Europeans as heads of departments, and the permission accorded to missionary endeavours disproved such intention or dedication; that it was inconsistent with private rights of property and was an act of intolerance which it would be a sin to attribute to sovereigns on the West Coast. The Christians were not foreigners and were in the country long before the Maha Raja acquired sovereignty over North Travancore. He requested that, in conformity with liberal principles, the 39 appointments in the higher grades be thrown open to Christians as well. With regard to other appointments in the Revenue service on Rs. 30 and upwards, it was true in theory that they were open to Christians,

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but none were actually employed in the Revenue department, except a few as Provertikars on Rs. 10 or 12. He also quoted figures to show the general position, in the service, of the Christians, the best educated class in the State, and their inadequate representation as compared with other communities.

Mr. P. V. Daniel (Member, South Travancore Native Christian Association, Nagercoil) said that, through lack of State patronage, a large number of their educated young men were obliged to leave the country for bread in distant countries amidst uncongenial surroundings, and that the few who had entered the State service had not received due encouragement. The general disability due to the connection of the Revenue with the Devaswom department should be removed. Till that was done, special preference might be given to their claims in other departments. Since they were debarred from becoming Tahsildar-Magistrates, Government might be pleased to appoint a larger number to sole Magistrates' places, their salary being brought on a par with that of Tahsildars.

Dewan's reply.—Christians cannot be employed in the Land Revenue department as long as the management of Hindu Religious institutions vests in the officers of that department. The complete separation of the Devaswom from the Revenue department will involve extra expenditure and the question of such separation is wholly one of finance. Till it is possible to throw open the Revenue department to Christians, it will continue to be the policy of Government to employ them in other departments to an extent which will, to some extent, compensate them for their exclusion from the Land Revenue department.

67. *Elavas and the public service.*

Mr. M. Govindan (Member, S. N. D. P. Yogam, Trivandrum) requested that all the deparments of the public service should be thrown open to qualified Elavas.

Mr. R. Velu Tharakan (Member, Elava Samajam, Chirayinkil) and *Mr. K. Narayana Panicker* (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) spoke in support of the request.

Dewan's reply.—*Theoretically* the position of Elavas is exactly the same as that of Christians with regard to appointments in the public service, *i. e.*, all appointments are open to them except those in the Land Revenue department which, on account of the combination of Revenue and Devaswom duties in the same officer, is closed to Elavas, as it is closed to Christians. Government are,

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